

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 03755 040944Z
ACTION NODS-00

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O 040845Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1616

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 3755

NODIS

AF FOR DICK MOOSE, FROM LOW

1. IN VIEW OF WHAT IS GOING ON, DAVID OWEN HAS DECIDED THAT THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR JOHNNY TO RETURN TO LONDON, AND WE ENTIRELY AGREE. OUR PLAN, THEREFORE, IS TO TRAVEL TUESDAY AFTERNOON TO PRETORIA FOLLOWING A NUMBER OF FURTHER CONTACTS IN SALISBURY. WE HAVE A MEETING SET UP WITH BRAND FOURIE IN THE EVENING AND WILL THEN TRAVEL TO MAPUTO WEDNESDAY, THE 5TH. WE HAVE ASKED MAPUTO TO ARRANGE A MEETING FOR US WITH MACHEL FIRST, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, SO THAT WE CAN PRESENT TO HIM THE PROPOSED MEETING OF PRINCIPALS. WE WILL THEN PRESENT IT TO MUGABE.
2. WE WOULD TRAVEL THURSDAY THE 6TH, TO LUSAKA (PERHAPS STOPPING OFF IN SALISBURY DEPENDING ON DEVELOPMENTS) TO PASS ON THE REACTIONS WE HAVE AND TO GET NKOMO'S REACTION TO THE PROPOSAL (CHINAMONO WAS RELATIVELY POSITIVE ABOUT THE PROPOSAL AT LUNCH TODAY).
3. FROM SATURDAY THE 8TH THROUGH TUESDAY THE 11TH, RHODESIA CELEBRATES RHODES AND FOUNDERS DAY AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO GET ANYTHING DONE. I WOULD REMAIN IN LUSAKA DURING COMPLETION OF THE INSPECTION THERE. FROM LUSAKA JOHNNY WOULD RETURN TO SALISBURY TO

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VISIT FRIENDS OVER THE WEEKEND.

4. I BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT IF THE PROPOSAL IS TO SUCCEED IT HAVE A STRONG EXTERNAL SUPPORT. IT SEEMS TO ME THEREFORE, THAT JOHNNY AND I SHOULD PRESENT IT TO NYERERE IN PERSON IN DAR. HE DOES NOT RETURN FROM UP-COUNTRY UNTIL THE 10TH.

THEREFORE, I PROPOSE TO HAVE THE ATTACHE PLANE PICK UP JOHNNY IN SALISBURY AND ME IN LUSAKA AND GO ON MONDAY AFTERNOON TO DAR, SEE NYERERE TUESDAY, THE 11TH AND RETURN THAT EVENING TO SALISBURY.

5. BY THAT TIME THE OTHER MATTER MAY HAVE SORTED ITSELF OUT AND IT WILL BE CLEAR HOW TO PROCEED WITH THE RHODESIANS.

6. I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE ON THIS TO ME IN PRETORIA TUESDAY.
EDMONDSON

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NNN

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